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EVIL UNITED

Evil United (MVD Audio)



01. Blasphemer
02. Dawn Of Armageddon
03. Speak
04. Rise And Fall Of Earth And Man
05. Wargod
06. Dark Serenade
07. Fifty Year Storm
08. Spoonfed
09. Lost Dream
10. Taking Over The Grandmaster
11. Walking To Sodom
12. Hexorcism

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NOT THE ALBUM

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With **EVIL UNITED**, Jason McMaster (**BROKEN TEETH**, **WATCHTOWER**, **IGNITER**, **DANGEROUS TOYS**) can add one more band that's not exactly like any of his current/past bands to that ever-lengthening parenthetical notation of hard rock and heavy metal acts. Rivalled in quality terms — at least in recent years — only by the last **BROKEN TEETH** album ("**Viva la Rock, Fantastico!**"), **EVIL UNITED**'s self-titled debut is one hot and thrashing, Texas metal son of a bitch! And it is just different enough — thanks in large part to **McMaster**'s distinctive vocal attack — to set itself apart from the thrash metal mediocrity heap.

In creating this molten metal ruckus, **McMaster** is joined by bassist **Don Van Stavern** (**RIOT**, S.A. **SLAYER**), drummer **Shakes West** (**MURDERDOLLS**, **NEUROTICA**, **SEBASTIAN BACH**), and flame-throwing guitarists **T.C. Connally** (**PB/DC**, **CULT TO FOLLOW**) and **John Valenzuela** (**PB/DC**, **URIAL**). You heard the phrase "bringin' it?" Well, this bunch done brought it with 10 butt-kickin' originals, two ominous instrumental interludes ("**Dark Serenade**" and "**Lost Dream**"), and a fuel-injected cover of **THIN LIZZY**'s "**Massacre**". Of the 10 originals, much of what you get is well played, well written, and goddamn electric thrash metal that falls somewhere between **OVERKILL** and **DESTRUCTION**, yet with a smattering of dynamics that keeps the



material fresh and flowing at any point along the way. You just can't argue with the methods of annihilation utilized by the group on "**Dawn of Armageddon**", "**Wargod**", "**Spoonfed**", the absolutely murderous "**Hexorcism**" and blazing opener (complete with **SLAYER** snippet) "**Blasphemer**", but neither can you argue with those used on any of the others. Included in that second batch are two rather **PANTERA**-like cuts in "**Speak**" and "**Rise and Fall of Earth and Man**", the former one of several that features **McMaster**'s clever — and sometimes odd — vocal changeups, in this case a falsetto layer on the chorus.

McMaster's vocals do take a bit of getting used to and could stand to be turned down just a smidge in the mix, but ultimately become a staple of the **EVIL UNITED** sound. Though the most prominent vocal style on the album, **McMaster** doesn't stick exclusively to his lunatic shriek either, shifting in inflection and range with some regularity. In addition to the above mentioned left turn on "**Speak**", he also moves into a kind of epic, low register singing on "**Wargod**" and in somewhat similar manner on "**Spoonfed**". The low-register layer on the superb "**Walking in Sodom**" is peculiar, yet still appealing and after a couple of spins you'd not be able to imagine it any other way.

The flaying riffs and pummeling rhythms in combination with smart arranging make **EVIL UNITED**'s debut a beast in uncertain terms, but when you throw in **McMaster**'s vocal treatments it becomes much more of a memorable one. But what makes this album worthwhile is the fact that there isn't bad tune on here. That includes the instrumental pieces, although neither is long enough to have much of an impact anyway. Nitpick if you must and then buy the damn thing. This is genuine, true, and 100 percent Texas metal aggression. That's reason enough.

- Scott Alisoglu

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